

on tradition, not on force. This firmly established family life suffered severely when the children came to receive an education different from that of their parents, and when women began to leave their homes to take their place in economic life. Chastity and matrimonial fidelity have come to be less strictly observed and birth control is widely practised. The family interest no longer dominates to the same extent the relations between parents and children, who now follow their own interests and are less willing to sacrifice themselves for the family; in Western and Central Europe, Jewish children now go their own ways, not heeding the precepts of their parents. Jewish family life has become very similar to that of the non-Jews in the same class of society.

#### (5) ECONOMIC ADAPTATION OF THE JEWS TO THEIR SURROUNDINGS

Before the Emancipation the Jews in Europe lived under a different law than the citizens of the country. They were aliens whose legal position depended on the rights and privileges granted them by the rulers. In Poland, under a charter granted to the Jewish communities in 1551, the Jews were subject to their own jurisdiction, exercised by the *Jcahalim* (communities) according to Jewish Law.

To-day the separate legal status of the Jews

no longer  
exists in civilized countries, and their own  
Courts have  
almost entirely disappeared. The Beth Din, or  
Jewish Court,  
which formerly existed in almost every Jewish  
community  
under the chairmanship of the Rabbi and  
dispensed justice  
according to Jewish Law in civil and minor  
criminal cases,  
has lost all secular power in Western and  
Central Europe.  
In Eastern Europe and the Near East, the  
Jewish Courts  
have been either entirely suppressed by the  
authorities, or  
else continue an attenuated existence as  
courts of arbitra-  
tion or for family matters (divorce, etc.).  
Formerly it was